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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on December 24, 2003 in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

imberly Snew

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.

10/028,500

Confirmation No. 2490

Applicant

Grube et al.

Filed

December 19, 2001

TC/A.U.

2825

Examiner

C. Everhart

Docket No.

276440-24

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action of October 24, 2003, the period for response to which ends after January 24, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the list of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 12 of this paper.

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